

## Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 USIA-12 /023 W

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P 261316Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9466

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJ: EDUCATION PACKAGE - AZORES AGREEMENT

1. PROFS. NEAL AND BEAUCHANP ARRIVED IN LISBON  
APRIL 24. COUP D'ETAT TOOK PLACE EARLY MORNING  
HOURS APRIL 25. AT 10 AM APRIL 25, RALHA WENT TO THEIR  
HOTEL TO INFORM THEM THAT INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES  
FOR TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ACADEMIC YEAR  
1974-75, SCHEDULED FOR THAT MORNING, WERE CANCELED.  
RALHA SAID THAT WHEN EVENTS UNDER WAY HAD RUN THEIR  
COURSE, HE EXPECTED TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM TO CONTINUE.

2. MORNING OF APRIL 26 HE SENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
CAR TO HOTEL TO FETCH NEAL AND BEAUCHAMP AND BRING  
THEM TO MINISTRY FOR INTERVIEWS WITH CANDIDATES.  
RALHA SAID THAT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IS FUNCTIONING  
NORMALLY WITH ALL EMPLOYEES, FROM LEVEL OF DIRECTOR  
GENERAL ON DOWN RALHA'S LEVEL, AT THEIR DESKS.

3. RALHA HAS INFORMED EMBOFF HE SEES NO REASON NOT  
TO PROCEED WITH VISIT OF UNIVERSITY RECTORS SCHEDULED  
TO BEGIN MAY 4. (SEE LISBON 1500).

4. NO WORD ON WHERE OR WHAT EDUCATION MINISTER VEIGA SIMAO IS UP TO.  
EMBASSY HAS HAD ONE REPORT THAT HE CALLED STAFF OF  
MINISTRY TOGETHER APRIL 24, DAY BEFORE COUP GOT UNDER WAY,  
TO BID THEM GOODBY.

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5. COMMENT: POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE EDUCATIONAL

REFORM PROGRAM RUNS DEEP THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. IN  
A PUBLIC OPINION POLL PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS IN DEC  
1971, 70 PERCENT OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC (80 PERCENT  
OF THE UPPER SOCIO-ECONOMIC CLASS) WERE SAID TO RATE  
EDUCATION AS THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM CONFRONTING  
PORTUGAL AT THAT TIME. WHILE VEIGA SIMAO'S  
FUTURE IS UNCLEAR, WE EXPECT THE REFORM PROGRAM  
HE LAUNCHED WILL HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE  
SPINOLA GOVERNMENT. END COMMENT.

6. CU/WE MAY WISH TO INFORM APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS  
AT NORTHWESTERN AND TEXAS THAT BEAUCHAMP AND NEAL ARE  
OKAY AND PROCEEDING WITH THE PROGRAM.  
POST

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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